



Town of Montague
Department, Board, Committee, Commission
BUDGET NARRATIVE

FY 24

Complete this form electronically! Be clear and concise!

Department: Town Meeting (113) Submitted by: Steve Ellis

1. Please describe and provide the rationale for any notable changes in your FY24 budget request.

The FY24 Town Meeting Budget Request amounts to only \$590 in total, but in discussion with the Moderator, it was believed that its consideration is important due to the reasons for the small change, which is equivalent to 24.7%. The most notable changes include a request to improve the Moderator's stipend ahead of the Finance Committee's intended FY25 review process, bringing the stipend from \$370 to \$500/year. Additionally, the current Moderator believes strongly in engagement with the MA Moderators' Association peer network and professional development programming, which requires modest sums for conference attendance (registration and meals) and travel mileage reimbursement. Other changes reflect the increased cost of food and supplies.

2. To this point in FY23, have you enhanced or expanded the programs and services you provide, or implemented new tools or technology that you'd like the Finance Committee and Selectboard to know about? Please describe.

No significant changes beyond re-establishing normal Town Meeting routines.

3. Are there presently challenges to your department's ability to meet its goals and requirements due to its FY23 operating budget? If so, offer any your recommendations you may have for improving the situation in FY24.

While we benefit from a deeply experienced Moderator, we have been noticed that he is unlikely to serve another three-year term. The level of stipend and lack of a training budget present as a risk to succession planning and the professional development of our next Moderator.

4. Did you receive funding for any special articles in FY22 or FY23? Please list them and share the current status of those expenditures/projects.

N/A